



**BILL C-14, an Act to amend the criminal code and to make related amendments to other Acts** (*medical assistance in dying*), was introduced yesterday by the Government of Canada. Statements followed from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. [They can be read on our website](#). We await legislation by the Provincial Government which should follow soon. The Prime Minister has promised a free vote in Parliament. The Government has until June 6<sup>th</sup> to produce legislation permitting euthanasia and assisted suicide.

**ALREADY OVER 250 YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE REGISTERED** for a *Year of Mercy Youth Rally* that will take place at Camp Brebeuf near Rockwood on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The day will celebrate what it means to be a young person in the Church in this *Year of Mercy*. For more information, check out the Youth Ministry [page on our website](#), or contact Christina Mines, Director of the office. The day is a success already!

**THE CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP** between seven Catholic School Boards, St. Jerome's University and the Diocese is sponsoring a Catholic Leadership Program involving about 30 participants. The program will take place in modules over the coming two years. Participants have been offered the opportunity to meet other young leaders to learn leadership skills that they will be able to use in their work. Cathy Horgan is the Director of the program which begins at the end of May. The initiative has been refined in discussions over the past few years.

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER IS OFTEN CALLED GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY** and is also declared the World Day of Prayer for Priestly Vocations. The image of the Good Shepherd, presented in the Gospel on Sunday, provides the vision for every Priest who wishes to follow in the footsteps of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In *Hamilton Priest*, the newsletter from our Vocation Office, Father Wojciech Kuzma, Diocesan Vocation Director, has outlined a few suggestions about how to make this year's Good Shepherd Sunday special, including suggestions for Sunday's homily.

**GRADE 12 STUDENTS** in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board will gather at St. Mary's Parish, Hamilton, on Wednesday morning for the annual *Senior's Mass*. It is a time to offer thanks to God for their Catholic education, and pray for God's blessing following graduation. It is an important tradition! May God bless all high school graduates throughout the Diocese of Hamilton this year!

**FOUR GROUPS OF GRADE 12 STUDENTS FROM ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL IN HAMILTON** travelled to the Dominican Republic for a week long experience that is called *D.R.E.A.M.S.* The life changing experience occurs under the watchful eye of School Chaplaincy Leader, Don Hall, and includes students, parents, teachers, and Board officials. I met many of the young participants last week and heard moving stories of the fun, hard work, and inner transformations that took place. It has become a valuable part of the educational experience at St. Mary's High School!

**MY ANNUAL VISIT TO CANADIAN MARTYRS PARISH IN HAMILTON** this weekend gives me an important opportunity to meet McMaster University students (MACSA) who worship there each week. A winter cold caused me to postpone my visit there a few months ago. Father Bradley Markus, Pastor, rescheduled the visit, so I will celebrate with them at the noon Mass on Sunday. I look forward to greeting the young people and to wishing them well on upcoming exams!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI